Eastern Shore VA Superstorm Sandy Recovery WCV Dredging: Segment Prioritization

Eastern Shore Community College
Workforce Development Center
Melfa, Virginia

August 16, 2013

"A Unified Voice for Navigation, Project Prioritization, and the Future Success of Waterborne Commerce on Virginia's Eastern Shore"

Meeting Participants

- Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
- US Coast Guard, 5th District and local stations
- Congressional Representatives
- Representatives from:
  - Accomack and Northampton Counties
  - Eastern Shore VA towns
  - Working Watermen's Association
  - Harbor Committees
  - Virginia Marine Resource Commission
  - Harbormasters
  - Local industry and economic development interests

US Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District
BUILDING STRONG®

ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES
EASTERN SHORE FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNELS
LOCAL SPONSOR PRIORITIES
AUGUST 16, 2013

MEETING AGENDA

9:00 Welcome, Opening Remarks, Purpose ..... Corps/Local
9:05 Introductions
9:15 Latest on Corps Budget Process, Work Plan, Sandy Recovery ..... Corps
9:35 Local Sponsor, Corps and Coast Guard Authorities and Limitations ..... Corps/USCG/Local
10:00 Update on WCV (VIP) and Current Notice to Mariners ..... USCG
10:15 Local Stakeholder Strategy/Vision for Navigation on the Eastern Shore ..... Local
10:45 Priority dredging areas ..... Corps/USCG/ Local
(criteria should include navigation need, value to the nation, and best opportunity for funding)
11:15 Next steps to fine-tune priority list and execute next dredging project
11:45 Adjourn

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30: End of Federal Fiscal Year

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Website for March 2013 Meeting:

http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/EasternShoreNavigationPartnership.aspx

Electronic Survey Distribution System Site:

http://rci.nao.usace.army.mil/ESDS/Disclaimer.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2Fesds%2FDefault.aspx

ACTION ITEMS

Item	*By Who*	*By When*

Water Resources Division Vision

We are a flexible and adaptive Water Resources Division collaboratively achieving sustainable watershed solutions among Operations, Planning and Policy, and Regulatory. We deliver balanced, enduring, and essential water resource responses through relationships with all water resources partners and stakeholders. Our Team is the leader in customer service in Civil Works, providing the model organization for USACE.

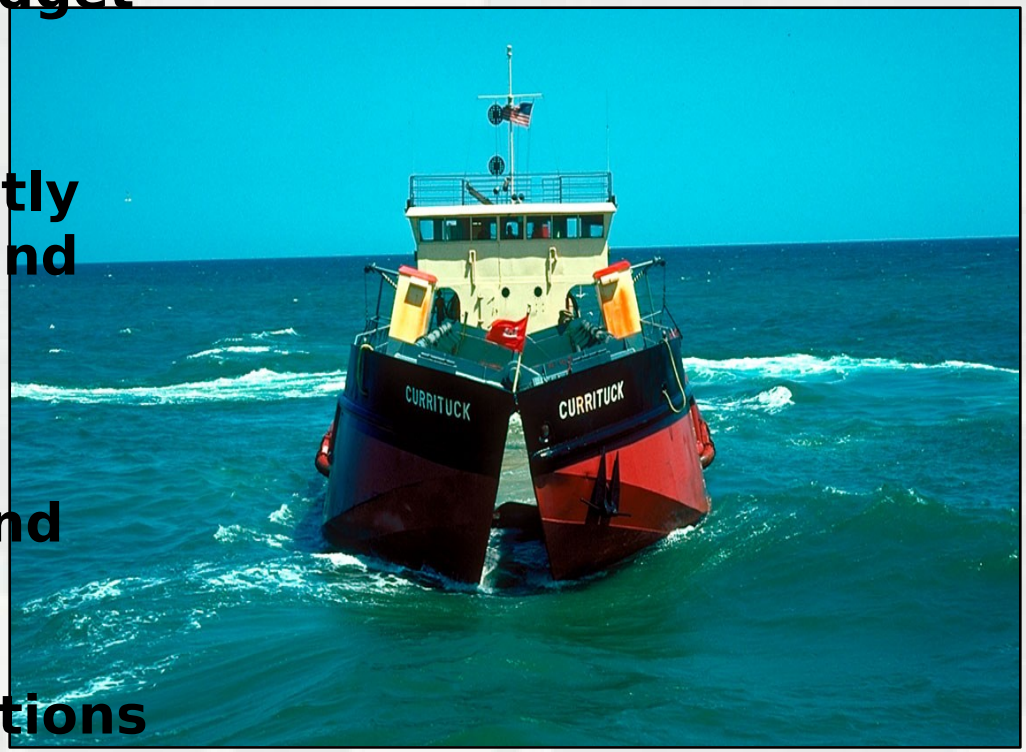
Meeting Agenda

Waterway on the Coast of Virginia (WCV)

- **Currently minimally funded through the President's budget process.**

- **Multiple channels currently impacted due to shoaling and and decreased dredging in recent years.**

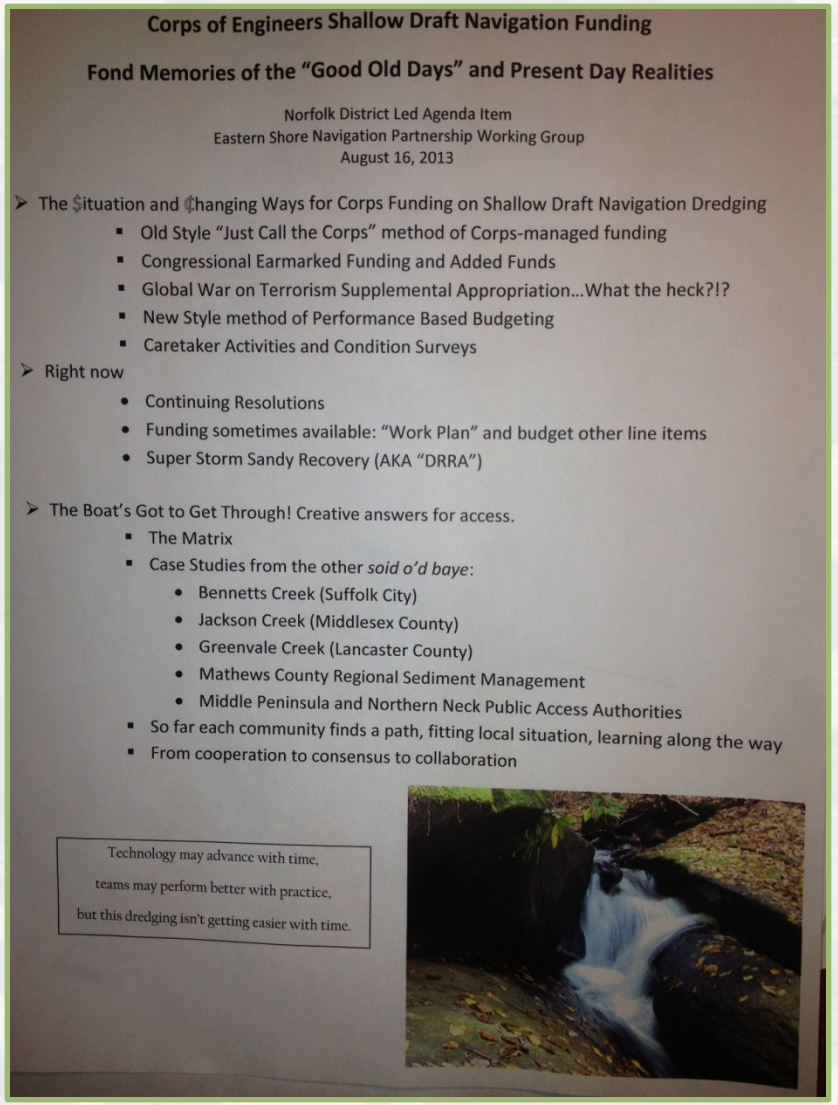
- **Regional collaboration and consolidated approach is required to re-energize continuous dredging operations**



Eastern Shore Federal Navigation Projects

Current State of Corps Funding

-starting & stopping, do best with what's available at time
-Superstorm Sandy brought some funding
-Distributed matrix
-Discussed Bennetts Creek, Suffolk provided funding
-Other case studies, "Western Shore Prioritization"
-Creative problem-solving, becoming more challenging



US Coast Guard – Eastern Shore Status

-History
-CG follows Corps
-CG has regular budget, not as specific by project
-Discretionary function but "due care"
-Construction tender "Kennebec" and "Primrose" can't navigate anymore (keel coolers)
-Dependent on tides to do work
-6' project Chincoteague to Cape Charles, barely enough to work
-NASA and AEGIS needs? might be a consideration
-Condition surveys useful to CG, without they are blind
-A lot less, with a lot less
-Options:
    -Transfer aids to counties
    -Smith Mountain Lake (TLAC) Committee – Breaux funds from state
    -Partial removal, leave a subset
    -Long time to transfer to a private individual (GSA, bidding process)
    -Ecotourist company
    -Can maintain east-west @ Chincoteague, Wachapreague, Great Machipongo Channels

USCG Navigation Challenges

- **Removal of most Aids to Navigation on Eastern Shore**

Additional Inputs for Participants to Consider for Criteria Weighting During Prioritization

- US Coast Guard – 160’ long ATON tender has only 1 or 2 places where the vessel can turn around.
- Working Watermen’s Association - Quinby area has about 60 aquaculture employees and about 30 watermen generating several million dollars in that area.
- Harbormaster, Watermen’s Association, Town – reference Aids to Navigation are still needed, particularly at night
- Corps – consider areas NOT needing dredging - if vessels are re-routed through/to other areas; there is an increase in transportation costs that should be accounted for.
- Economic development concerns and town representatives - VIMS economists may be able to help capture economic and environmental benefits of the Eastern Shore waterways, perhaps study should include both bayside and seaside, perhaps form an Eastern Shore waterways board and comprehensive strategic plan

Local Sponsor Furnished Information

Annual Average Oyster Harvest Data

Annual Average Shellfish Harvest Data

Project Prioritization Criteria 1

- Sensitive to US Coast Guard navigation aid maintenance capability
- Dredged material placement site capacity
- Environmental permits
- Resource time of year restrictions
- Project commercial

Project Prioritization Criteria 2

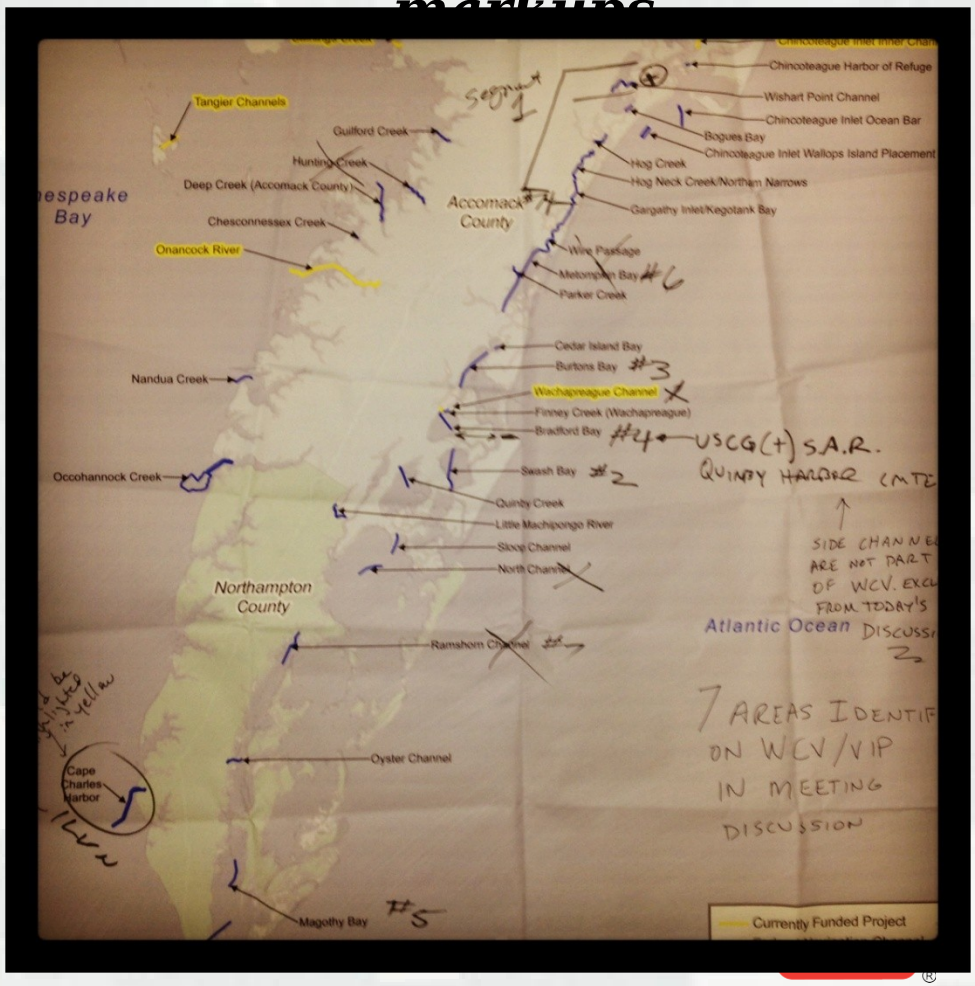
- **Any identified dredging area must be a segment within the authorized Waterway on the Coast of Virginia (Virginia Inside Passage) project.**

- **Seaside tributaries and Bayside Federal navigation channels are excluded and not eligible for consideration under the current criteria.**

In-Meeting Prioritization Process

- Identified key areas on the WCV that need dredging.
- Each area considered with respect to criteria on slides 3 and 4.
- Prioritization process: Considered need and usage of each shoaled area.
- Each represented group queried to verify rationale.
- Group consensus used to identify one shoal to begin efforts to dredge in near future.
- Need survey and map of the full length of WCV

Excerpt of meeting map with markups



Key Meeting Decisions

- Identified priority areas on the WCV that need dredging.
- Each area considered with respect to criteria on slides 3 and 4.
- Prioritization process: Considered need and usage of each shoaled area.
- Each represented group queried to verify rationale.
- Group consensus used to identify one shoal to begin efforts to dredge in near future.
- Need survey and map of the full length of WCV/VIP.

Meeting Outcomes

Short Term Goals

BOS presentation –J. Joeckel

1 channel project at $1MM

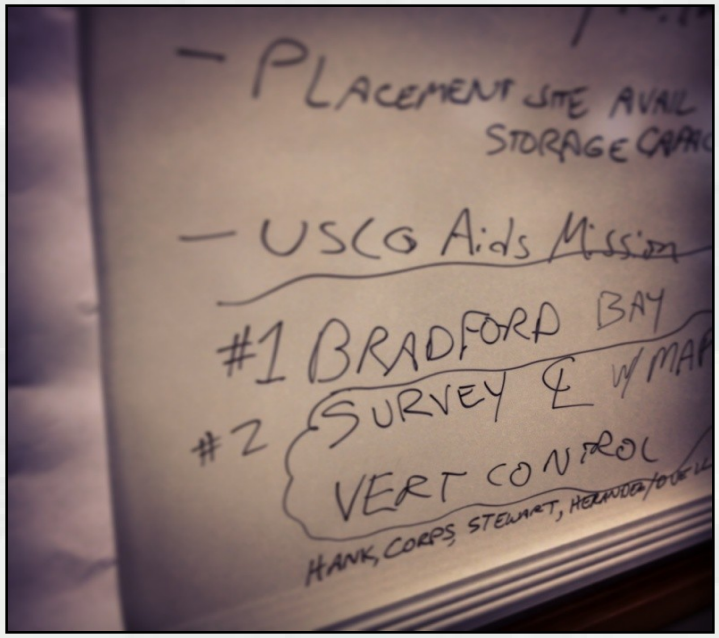
Constraints: WCV, obligate by end FY14, approx. 30,000 cy of material, permits, placement sites, USCG aids mission

Bradford Bay #1

Condition Survey, length of WCV #2, NOAA? #2

Preservation of vertical control

Surveys Team (Hank Badger, Stewart, Corps, Hernandez, Deuel, NOAA, DEQ)



Long Term

-Economic work and environmental benefits

-Regularly scheduled dredging

-Joint county strategic plan

-Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

-Earmark

Meeting Credits

- **Eastern Shore Community College Workforce Development Center – providing meeting facility and resources**
- **Accomack County Staff – Meeting Notes**
- **Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard, Accomack County – Agenda development**

For more information regarding this meeting, contact

US Army Corps of Engineers,

Norfolk District

757-201-7861

Questions/Comments?

Contact Information:
Norfolk District, USACE
Operations Branch